



# **Toronto Primary Curricular Information**



## **A Year in P2**

**With  
Mrs Wong**

This booklet is designed to provide information about the curriculum your child will experience this year in Primary 2 as well as providing information about classroom routines and expectations.

Curriculum for Excellence establishes clear values, purposes and principles for education from 3-18 in Scotland. It sets out to enable children and young people to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

The key methods by which we will develop these capacities are through:

- ❖ active learning
- ❖ interdisciplinary learning
- ❖ outdoor learning
- ❖ co-operative learning

We will be using a range of Assessment is for Learning techniques including:

- ❖ sharing learning intentions and success criteria
- ❖ high quality interactions and feedback
- ❖ learner involvement in reflection, setting learning goals and next steps
- ❖ self and peer assessment

The curriculum is divided as following:

Curriculum Level	Stage
Early	Pre-school and P1 or later for some
First	To end of P4 but earlier or later for some
Second	To end of P7 but earlier or later for some
Third and Fourth	S1-S3 but earlier for some The fourth level broadly equates to SCQF Level 4
Senior Phase	S4-6 and college or other means of study

## **Welcome to Primary 2**

I am delighted with the way the pupils have settled in to Primary 2 and I look forward to seeing them develop their knowledge and skills throughout the year. I am hoping for a challenging, creative, fun and successful year and would like to inform you of my plans and expectations for the children.

### **English and Literacy**

In Primary 1, 2 and Primary 3 we use the North Lanarkshire Literacy programme for many aspects of literacy work. Our English and Literacy work in class consists of reading, writing, listening & talking and French. Each week, children are introduced to new 'sounds' or 'blends' then learn how to use them when reading and writing by 'segmenting', 'blending' and 'word building'. You can help your child by practising the sounds and common words that are sent home on a daily basis.

### **Writing**

Building on from Primary 1 experiences, our pupils are given regular opportunities to write for a variety of purposes. As most Primary 2 pupils are at the early stages of developing their writing skills, learning experiences will be linked to their work throughout the curriculum and through short story writing. We also teach 'tools' for writing such as punctuation (capital letters, full stops, finger spaces, question marks and exclamation marks), accurately spelling common words and words which can be 'sounded out'.

### **Reading**

We will develop reading skills through Guided Reading sessions. This is a most enjoyable way of teaching reading and allows the pupils the opportunity to study a book in great detail. It encompasses all aspects of English and Literacy: comprehension; grammar/punctuation; dictionary/thesaurus skills; writing; spelling; listening and discussion. Children will be taking part in activities based on their book to help develop reading skills as well as reading their book out loud. We use fiction and non-fiction books to teach the children a range of reading skills. Assessment is ongoing and builds on your child's progress from previous years, allowing us to work to the children's pace. Reading books will be sent home with a reading record to be signed by a parent/carer.

## **Spelling**

We will be using active spelling approaches to teach spelling. The children will be building on their spelling covered in Primary 1 last session using the North Lanarkshire Literacy approach. All children will be given words with the sounds and high frequency words they are learning for homework. They will be tested on these words on a Thursday.

## **Listening & Talking**

Good listening and talking skills are taught and reinforced in an ongoing way every day in our classrooms and school. In addition to this, listening and talking skills are taught through different curricular areas. In Primary 2, as well as ongoing assessment, we assess talking and listening skills through activities such as informal weekly news time on a Friday, class talks, group discussions and reciting Scottish poetry.

## **Modern Languages**

The modern language we learn in school is French. Over the course of this year we will be introducing some French vocabulary in an informal way, for example saying good morning, good bye.

## **Numeracy & Mathematics**

Developing a solid understanding of mathematical and numeracy concepts in Primary 2 is very important as it provides strong building blocks for later learning. In Toronto Primary we aim to provide rich, active learning experiences where our children can continue to explore and learn about a range of concepts such as numbers 0-100 (what comes before, after and between a given number), addition and subtraction within 20, counting in 2's, 5's and 10's, introducing and extending knowledge of the concepts of multiplication and division and fractions –  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Children will also further develop their knowledge and understanding of money – recognising coins and addition of notes and coins, symmetry, measuring items using non-standard units (cubes) and standard units (cm), information handling (e.g. bar charts, pictograms, tally charts), time – o'clock and half past.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

Our class has P.E. on a **Monday and Tuesday**. P.E. Kit, consisting of shorts, t-shirt and change of shoes, is required on these days. In case of loss or injury, jewellery, especially earrings, should be left at home on PE days; otherwise, it must be removed before lessons. Please ensure that all individual items of clothing are named. P.E. kit may be kept in class and will be sent home at the end of each term to be washed. If you would like to have it sent home for washing more often, please send a note in with your child (and remember to pop it back into their bags again ready for the week ahead).

## **Everyday Essentials**

Water: It is important for your child to stay hydrated so please try to send them to school with a *water* bottle every day. (Please ensure that only plain still water is provided instead of juice or flavoured/fizzy water). Studies show that drinking water during the day can result in increased concentration, good energy levels and an ability to sustain activity.

Gym Rubbers: To keep the classroom clean, every child should have a pair of gym rubbers to change into at school. If you haven't done so already, please send a pair in with your child.

## **Internet Safety**

We will be learning about aspects of keeping safe when using technology, especially internet safety throughout the course of this year.

## **Social Studies (Topic Work)**

This term our class will be learning about Woodlands through our Interdisciplinary topic when a very poor little hedgehog gets stuck in a crisp packet! Our other topics this session will be 'Eddie the Penguin' which covers ecological and environmental issues, Shops-old and new, and a comparative study between living in a city/town (Livingston) with living on a Scottish island based around the Katie Morag stories.

## **Communication**

Parent's Evenings are scheduled for term 1 and term 3. However, if you have any concerns, please catch me at the end of the school day or contact the office to make an appointment to speak with me.

**Our class learning assembly will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016.** More information will be sent to you nearer the time.

An old (adults) shirt brought from home to cover and protect your child's school uniform would be appreciated for art & craft activities.

## **Leadership Opportunities**

We will be encouraging the children to become increasingly independent and responsible for organising themselves throughout this year and hope this will be reinforced at home. There will be many opportunities for your child to develop these skills, such as contributing to the Pupil Council, taking on class responsibilities, Star of the week, Achievement Awards, Class Assemblies and many other experiences.

### **Promoting Positive Behaviour**

Golden Time will usually take place on a Friday morning. This is a chance for positive behaviour and hard work to be rewarded. Children can either bring in a toy from home (no electronics please) or will be invited to choose from a range of activities which will run for a 4 week block in our department; examples include Just Dance, Lego, the Wii and Hama Beads etc. This will begin later in the term.

### **Homework**

Throughout the year homework will be issued on a Monday to be returned by Thursday (unless otherwise stated) and will include:

- Reading – please support your child by reading with them and discussing the storyline, predicting what will happen next, practising key words and encouraging fluent and expressive reading.
- Spelling – new words (practise using Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check method) and completing a range of spelling activities
- Numeracy/ Topic related activity.

Please could you check and sign completed homework tasks, thank you.

I look forward to working with your child this year!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Wong 😊